notes, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

However, in order to combat counterfeiting, currency notes are now printed on a specially made cylinder mould vat made paper with additional security features. The Reserve Bank of India issues Press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant.

Blasts in Coimbatore

1583. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has confirmed that the target of blasts in Coimbatore during the General Election meeting on 14th February, 1998 was the B.J.P. leader, Shri L.K. Advani; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken to ban the extremist organisations associated with the blasts?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the Special Investigation Team of the Crime Branch CID constituted by the State Government to investigate the bomb blasts which took place in Coimbatore on 14.2.98 were planned by Al-Umma to cause heavy loss to human lives and properties to avenge the loss suffered by Muslims during the communal violence in November, 1997. It has also been reported that seven activists had been prepared to target Shri L.K. Advani. However, according to the State Government these activists could not gain access to the venue due to elaborate security measures.

(b) The state Government has already banned two Muslim Fundamentalist organisations, viz., the Al-Umma and All India Jihad Committee suspected to be involved.

Downgrading the security of VVIPs

1584. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau is strongly resisting a move by his Ministry of downgrade the security of several VVIPs;

(b) if so, the points of disagreements; and

(c) the steps taken to reconcile the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Anti-National Activities in Darjeeling

1585. SHRI DAWALAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an all party delegation from Darjeeling met him recently and apprised him about the anti-national activities in Darjeeling led by Shri Subhash Ghising, Chairman, DGHC;

(b) whether the delegation submitted a memorandum to him containing proofs of such activities; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government to curb, such anti-national activities to preserve national integration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) An all party delegation from Darjeeling met the Home Minister recently and submitted a Memorandum to him.

(c) Government is examining the issues involved.

Preventing starvation deaths

1586. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ordered

a package of measures including a "special rapporteur" to strengthen the monitoring mechanism to prevent recurrence of starvation deaths, as they took place in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh in recent years; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission investigated cases of starvation deaths in certain districts of Orissa only and arrived at the view that certain interim measures should be undertaken over a period of 2 years subject to such periodic reviews as the Commission may consider appropriate and necessary. This included appointment of a Special Rapporteur for these districts in order to keep the Commission fully informed of developments in respect of the concerned districts. The directions of the Commission mainly concern the Government of Orissa. However, as directed by the Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has continued the Emergency Feeding Programme upto 30.4.98. The Department has, accordingly, asked the Government of Orissa to continue this Programme till that date, on the pattern prevailing before September, 1997.

Violence by PWG in states

1587. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that People's War Group (PWG) or the Naxalites continue to indulge in violent acts in bordering areas of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the persons killed/wounded and properties destroyed by People's War Group (PWG) in each of these States during the past one year;

(c) whether all the three States have ever discussed the issue jointly so as to take joint action against People's War Group (PWG) with the help of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government and concerned States to eliminate People's War Group (PWG) menace?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available details of incidents of violence perpetrated by the PWG during 1997 in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are as under:

(i) Andhra Pradesh	—257 persons killed and 337 injured; 111 Government vehicles, 55 Government buildings 11 Railway Stations, 17 telephone exchanges, 46 private vehicles and 57 private buildings damaged/ destroyed.
(ii) Maharashtra	—9 persons killed and property worth Rs. 57.5 lakhs damaged.
(iii) Madhya Pradesh	14 persons killed and property worth Rs. 3.16 crore damaged.

(c) and (d) Regular Co-ordination meetings are held among these affected states to discuss the problem and appropriate decisions, taken to tackle the menace, which includes organising joint combing operations in the bordering areas, exchange of information on the movements of cadres, improvement of communication facilities, laying border roads etc.

(e) Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State